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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Draft report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session

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I. OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Opening of the session

1. The first session of the Conference of the Parties, convened pursuant to article 22 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, was opened at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, on 30 September 1997 by Mr. Hama Araba Diallo, Executive Secretary, in his capacity as head of the interim secretariat. Welcoming all participants to the Conference, he thanked the Government and people of Italy, and the authorities and citizens of Rome, for their generosity in hosting the Conference as well as FAO for having made it possible to hold the First Conference of the Parties at its headquarters.

B. Election of the President

2. At its 1st meeting, on 30 September, the Conference elected H.E. Mr. Lamberto Dini, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, as President by acclamation.

3. At the same meeting, the President made a welcoming statement.

C. Opening statements

4. At its 1st meeting, on 30 September, a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations was conveyed to the Conference by Mr. Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

5. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INCD) made a statement.

6. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Director-General of FAO, the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

7. At the same meeting, statements were delivered on behalf of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

8. At the same meeting, the Executive Secretary of the interim secretariat for the Convention to Combat Desertification made a statement.

9. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 30 September, the Conference heard an address by H.E. Dr. Carlos Lemos Simmonds, Vice-President of Colombia.

10. At the same meeting, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity made a statement.

11. At its 5th meeting, on 3 October, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change made a statement.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Adoption of the rules of procedure

12. At its 1st meeting, on 30 September, the Conference decided to adopt the rules of procedure attached to INCD decision 10/6 (see A/52/82, appendix II), with the exception of paragraph 1 of rule 6, paragraph 1 of rule 22, rule 31, and paragraph 1 of rule 47, and to apply provisionally rules 22 and 31 in relation to the size of the Bureau. (For subsequent consideration of the rules of procedure, see chap. V, sect. B.)

B. Adoption of the agenda

13. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Conference adopted its agenda as contained in document ICCD/COP(1)/1 and Corr.1.

C. Election of officers other than the President

14. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 30 September, the Conference elected Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould El-Ghaouth (Mauritania) as Vice-President of the Conference.

15. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 2 October, the President read out the following statement:

"The Conference of the Parties noted that the Eastern European Group currently had only one Party to the Convention and it therefore decided that it would be appropriate not to leave the second Bureau seat, to which that regional group was entitled, empty at the present session, but rather to fill it.

"This COP decision was made on the understanding that the action was exceptional and that the seat would revert to the Eastern European Group at the second session of the COP.

"This decision of the COP does not in any way prejudice the interest of any Group in future meetings of the COP."

16. The Conference then elected by acclamation the following officers to serve on its Bureau:

Vice-Presidents:

Ms. Maria Julia Alsogaray (Argentina)

Mr. Samvel Baloyan (Armenia)

Mr. Miguel Angel Araujo Padilla (El Salvador)

Mr. Andri Bisaz (Switzerland)

Mr. Abdul Hameed Al-Monajed (Syrian Arab Republic)

Mr. Harold Acemah (Uganda)

Mr. Katinda Kamando (United Republic of Tanzania)

Vice-President-cum-Rapporteur:

Mr. Mohammad Reza H.K. Jabbari (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology:

Mr. Ricardo Sanchez-Sosa (Cuba)

17. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Benin (on behalf of the African States Group), Belgium (on behalf of the Western European and Other States Group), Armenia (on behalf of the Eastern European States Group), the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the Asian States Group) and Honduras (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States Group).

D. Organization of work, including the establishment of a Committee of the Whole and the Committee on Science and Technology

18. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 30 September, the Conference approved the proposed organization of work for the session contained in document ICCD/COP(1)1 and Corr.1/Rev.1.

Establishment of the Committee of the Whole

19. At the same meeting, the Conference decided to establish a Committee of the Whole to negotiate issues pending from the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INCD), as well as other substantive issues, including the draft decisions contained in documents A/AC.241/L.42 and L.43.

20. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the President, the Conference designated Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould El-Ghaouth (Mauritania) as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole.

Terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology

21. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 30 September, the Conference adopted the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology set forth in INCD decision 9/10 (see annex ___, decision I/ ___).

E. Admission of organizations as observers

Observer status for intergovernmental organizations

22. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 30 September, the Conference adopted the decision on the participation of intergovernmental organizations referred to

in the recommendations contained in INCD decision 10/12 (see A/52/82, appendix II), as modified in document INCD/COP(1)2/Corr.1 (see annex ___, decision I/1).

23. At the same meeting, the representative of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development made a statement.

24. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

25. At the same meeting, the Executive Secretary of the interim secretariat made a statement.

Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

26. At its 2nd meeting, on 30 September, the Conference decided to adopt the decision on accreditation of the non-governmental organizations referred to in the recommendation contained in INCD decision 10/12, as modified in documents ICCD/COP(1)2/Corr.1 and 8 (see annex ___, decision I/1).

F. Attendance

[To be completed]

G. Documentation

[To be completed]

III. HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT

[To be completed]

IV. DIALOGUE ON BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

[To be completed]

V. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

A. Decisions taken directly in the Plenary

Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location

27. At its 2nd meeting, on 30 September, the Conference began its consideration of the item and heard presentations by Mr. Clifford Lincoln, Member of Parliament of Canada, by Mr. Ramon Luis Valcarcel, President of the Region of Murcia, Spain, and by Mr. Wieghard Haerdtl, State Secretary of the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany and Mrs. Baerbel Dieckmann, Lord Mayor of Bonn.

28. At its 4th meeting, on 3 October, the Conference heard a statement by the President.

29. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the contact group made a statement in explanation of the polling procedures for the selection of one of the three candidates to host the Permanent Secretariat.
30. At the same meeting, the Conference then conducted the poll by secret ballot.
31. At the same meeting, having been informed of the results of the secret ballot, the President proposed to the Conference that it take a consensus decision that the Permanent Secretariat be located in the City of Bonn, Germany.
32. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted the proposal of the President by consensus (see annex ___, decision I/2).
33. At the same meeting, the President made a statement.
34. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, Canada and Spain.

[Other decisions to be included]

B. Decisions taken on the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole

[To be completed]

C. Decisions taken on the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology

[To be completed]

ANNEX

Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties

[The final texts of the decisions, as adopted by the Conference,
to be included.]
